

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/386,000

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) to U.S.P. 938,885 to McCulley (“McCulley”)

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McCulley. In the previous Office Action dated August 15, 2001, the Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over McCulley. Specifically, he contended that McCulley discloses most of the features of the claimed invention. However, he acknowledged that the reference does not explicitly disclose positioning the sheet feeding area at a height at which a user can set up printing rolls without having to bend substantially at the waist. Nonetheless, the Examiner contended that it would have been obvious to place the McCulley device on a table or desk so as to position the device at the claimed height.

In response to the rejection, Applicant submitted an Amendment on August 15, 2001, to clarify the scope of the claim. Specifically, claim 13 was amended to state that the printer is large enough to rest at ground level and maintain a sheet feeding area positioned at a height where a user can set up printing medium without having to bend substantially at the waist. Moreover, Applicant distinguished claim 13 from McCulley by arguing that the reference did not suggest such feature.

On page 3 of the present Office Action, the Examiner states that he considered such arguments but that he was not persuaded by them. Specifically, he contends that very short users could use the McCulley printer without bending substantially at the waist and/or other users could use the printer by bending at their knees.

In the illustrative embodiment described on page 11, lines 5-6, of the present application, a user, who is about 170 cm tall, can set up printing medium without having to bend substantially

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at the waist. Applicant has amended claim 13 to incorporate limitations that are similar to the above features. Since McCulley does not disclose or suggest such limitations for the reasons presented above, Applicant submits that claim 13 is patentable.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S.P. 2,300,276 to Hageman (“Hageman”)

Claims 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hageman.

A. Claim 15

Applicant submits that claim 15 is not anticipated by (and would not have been obvious over) Hageman. For example, claim 15 relates to a printer that contains a cover member, which covers a first feeding path for a roll of paper from above and which supports a sheet of paper from below to constitute a part of a second feeding path for the sheet of paper. Also, the cover member extends linearly from an upstream portion thereof to a downstream portion thereof in connection with a direction in which the sheet of paper is fed.

The Examiner maintains that the carbon cylinder 45 shown in Fig. 4 of Hageman suggest the claimed cover member. However, as shown in the figure, the cylinder does not extend linearly as recited in the claim. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 15 is patentable over the reference.

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B. Claim 17

Applicant submits that claim 17 is not anticipated by (and would not have been obvious over) Hageman. For example, claim 17 depends upon claim 13, and claim 13 has not been rejected over Hageman. Thus, the Examiner has not satisfied his burden for establishing that claim 17 is anticipated by the cited reference. Also, since Hageman does not suggest all of the features recited in claim 13, Applicant submits that it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

III. Allowable subject matter

A. Claims 1-6

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-6.

B. Claims 16 and 18

The Examiner has objected to claims 16 and 18 but indicates that they would be allowed if they are rewritten in independent form. Since such claims have been rewritten in independent form, Applicant submits that the objection is overcome.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

13. (Three times amended) A large printer comprising:

a sheet feeding area positioned at a height at which a user, who is approximately 170 cm and standing erect in front of the printer, can set up a printing medium without having to bend substantially at the waist,

wherein the sheet feeding area is positioned at the height when the printer is placed substantially at ground level, and

wherein a plurality of paper rolls are loaded in the sheet feeding area so as to be arranged obliquely relative to each other in the vertical direction.

15. (Three times amended) A large printer comprising:

a sheet feeding area [positioned at a height at which a user standing in front of the printer can set up a printing medium] including at least one roll of paper and at least one sheet of paper[, without having to bend substantially at the waist]; and

a cover member, which covers a first feeding path for the roll of paper from above, and which supports the sheet of paper from below to constitute a part of a second feeding path for the sheet of paper,

wherein the cover member extends linearly from an upstream portion thereof to a

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downstream portion thereof in connection with a direction in which the sheet of paper is fed.

16. (Amended) A [The] large printer [as set forth in claim 13, further] comprising:
a sheet feeding area positioned at a height at which a user standing in front of the printer
can set up a printing medium without having to bend substantially at the waist,
wherein the sheet feeding area is positioned at the height when the printer is placed
substantially at ground level, and
wherein a plurality of paper rolls are loaded in the sheet feeding area so as to be arranged
obliquely relative to each other in the vertical direction;
an elongative member disposed in the paper feeding area for holding the printing
medium; and
a pair of support members for supporting both ends of the elongative member, at least
one of the support members being rotatable.

18. (Amended) A [The] large printer [as set forth in claim 13, further] comprising:
a sheet feeding area positioned at a height at which a user standing in front of the printer
can set up a printing medium without having to bend substantially at the waist,
wherein the sheet feeding area is positioned at the height when the printer is placed
substantially at ground level, and
wherein a plurality of paper rolls are loaded in the sheet feeding area so as to be arranged
obliquely relative to each other in the vertical direction;
a printing area;

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a paper discharge area; and

a paper feeding path which extends in a vertical direction from the paper feeding area to the paper discharge area via the printing area.